

June 15, 2023



FROM THE DESK OF
COMMISSIONER
BRENT BAILEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE



The Central District is pleased to bring you the latest information concerning utility rates, project developments, Public Service Commission actions and other news you can use. I hope you will find this information to be a useful resource to learn about the Public Service Commission, consumer issues and the continuous work we are doing for the citizens in the Central District and across the state of Mississippi. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.

Brent Bailey



HIGHLIGHTS

from the MPSC

June 13, 2023, Docket Meeting


The Mississippi Public Service Commission met on June 13, 2023, at 10:00 am CT to consider the following agenda items:

- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued an Order approving the Stipulation filed on May 24, 2023, between the **Public Utilities Staff** and **Mississippi Power Company** in regard to **Mississippi Power Company's** Notice of Intent to Change Rates Pursuant To The Performance Evaluation Plan (PEP), Rate Schedule PEP-6 to resolve all pending issues related to **Mississippi Power Company's** March 15, 2023 PEP evaluation report pursuant to its PEP-6 rate schedule. **Mississippi Power Company's** filing reflects that its Earned Return on Investment falls within its Allowed Return on Investment bandwidth for both the test year for 2022 lookback and the test year 2023 projection. Therefore, **Mississippi Power Company's** 2023 PEP filing has no impact on customer rates under this stipulation.
- ☑ **The Commission** considered and issued an Order approving **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Notice of Intent of its 2023 Formula Rate Plan (FRP) filed pursuant to the terms and provisions of the **Entergy Mississippi** Formula Rate Plan Rider Schedule FRP-7. In this matter, the **Public Utilities Staff** and **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** stipulated and agreed that **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** shall make a compliance filing to revise its Power Management Cost Adjustment Factor and its Grid Modernization Cost Adjustment Factor, effective for the July 2023 billing cycle. In recognition of recent reductions in the price of natural gas, the **Public Utilities Staff** and **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** further stipulated and agreed that **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** compliance filing shall also include a revision to reduce **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** Net Energy Cost Factor to a level necessary to reflect an average natural gas price of \$4.50 per mmBtu. As a result of these stipulations, the rates of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh would be \$136.80 beginning with July 2023 bills, which is \$7.08 lower than comparable June 2023 bills.





Continued

- ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving the Joint Petition of **BullsEye Telecom, Inc.** (**BullsEye**) and **Lingo Telecom, LLC d/b/a Trinsic Communications d/b/a VarTec Telecom d/b/a Excel Telecommunications d/b/a Lingo d/b/a Bullseye (Lingo Telecom)** for approval to transfer customers from **BullsEye** to its affiliate **Lingo Telecom** and cancellation of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity of **BullsEye** and any **BullsEye** tariffs on file with the **Commission**.
 - ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order](#) approving the **Joint Petition** by **Zayo Group, LLC** and **Electric Lightwave, LLC d/b/a Allstream (Electric Lightwave)** requesting approval of the **Commission** of the pro forma consolidation of **Electric Lightwave** into **Zayo Group** with **Zayo Group** remaining as the surviving entity.
 - ☑ **The Commission** issued a [Declaratory Opinion](#) regarding a specific question pertaining to an email correspondence published as an ex parte communication.
 - ☑ **The Commission** issued an [Order Seeking Comments](#) regarding the proposed repeal of Practice Rule 28: Rules Implementing the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act. **The Commission** holds that Practice Rule 28 should be repealed due to the recent passage of HB 1225 by the Legislature, which transferred enforcement of the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act from the **Commission** to the **Attorney General's Office**. Accordingly, the **Commission** opens this public rulemaking docket and proposes that Rule 28 be deleted in its entirety.
 - ☑ **The Commission** issued Orders referring the following to a hearing officer for hearing, report, and recommendation of an appropriate Order, or any other action necessary:
 - ☑ [Orders Referring](#) the Petition of **SR CL Panola I, LLC**, for a Facilities Certificate to Construct and Operate a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Panola County**.
 - ☑ [Orders Referring](#) the Petition of **SR CL Panola II, LLC**, for a Facilities Certificate to Construct and Operate a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Panola County**.
 - ☑ [Orders Referring](#) the Petition of **SR CL Panola III, LLC**, for a Facilities Certificate to Construct and Operate a Solar Electric Generating Facility in **Panola County**.
 - ☑ The **Commission** also agreed to rescheduled two future Open Docket meetings and set the meetings for July 11, 2023, and September 7, 2023.
-  If you were unable to attend the Open Docket Meeting and missed the live stream, a recording of the meeting can be found [here](#).



News & Notes

The Future of Nuclear

A new report from Wood Mackenzie, "[The nuclear option: Making new nuclear power viable in the energy transition](#)," explores the challenges that would prevent nuclear from playing a greater in electricity production and recommends actions that could help nuclear energy flourish in the coming decades.





Hydrogen Hub on the Horizon?



Recently, [Hy Stor Energy formally submitted an application](#) to the U.S. Department of Energy for funding to support the development of large-scale hydrogen production and storage via the U.S. DOE Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub Initiative. If successful at receiving funding, Hy Stor Energy will embark on construction of the Mississippi Clean Hydrogen Hub (MCHH) to help accelerate Mississippi-based regional economic development through the production of clean hydrogen from renewable energy and storage of hydrogen in a purpose-built underground salt dome network.

More Broadband Funding for Mississippi

The U.S. Treasury recently dispersed \$10 billion across the nation with Mississippi receiving \$151.4 million to support the deployment of broadband service in the state. The office of [Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi \(BEAM\)](#) will disperse the funds through a competitive grant program intended for internet service providers. The service must meet or exceed download and upload speeds of 100 megabits per second (Mbps) and service providers must also participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program. All funding must be awarded, and projects completed by December 31, 2026.



Robocaller on the Ropes

Attorneys general from across the U.S., including Mississippi, joined in a lawsuit against Avid Telecom for allegedly making more than 7.5 billion robocalls to people on the national Do Not Call Registry over the past five years. The lawsuit said Avid Telecom used spoofed or invalid caller ID numbers to send scam calls about the Social Security Administration, Medicare, Amazon and DirecTV, as well as auto warranties, employment and credit card interest rate reductions.

Last Week at the MPSC

- ☞ **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** filed its Rule 7.103 [Construction Notice](#) where it intends to construct a new 230 kilovolt ("kV") interconnection substation ("Endris 230 kV Substation") to connect **Ragsdale Solar, LLC's ("Ragsdale Solar")** proposed 100 MWac solar electric generating facility to **Entergy Mississippi, LLC's** existing South Canton Yandell Road 230kV transmission line, referred to as the "Endris 230 kV Substation Project", located in **Madison County**. The total estimated cost of the facilities is approximately \$9.58 million. **Ragsdale Solar** has agreed to pay **Entergy Mississippi, LLC** the costs for the design, construction and all other related aspects of the Endris Substation. The Endris Substation Project has an expected in-service date of June 2024.
- ☞ **SR West Marshall, LLC** filed its [Petition](#) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction and operation of 4.75 MW solar generation facility located in [Marshall County](#). The initial investment in Mississippi necessary to develop and construct the Facility will be approximately \$7,500,000. The Facility is scheduled to be in commercial operation by December 31, 2024. See the latest [map of utility-scale solar](#) in Mississippi.
- ☞ **The Commission** issued Orders Declining to Issue Declaratory Opinion in regards to [Specific Written Opinions](#) of the **Public utilities Staff** and the sufficiency of a [Written Letter](#) due to appropriateness and lack of sufficient clarity of the issues presented.



CENTRAL DISTRICT SNAPS



On Tuesday, I participated in an interview with channel 16 WAPT News reporter, Michaila Franklin, following our [news release](#) announcing the rate decrease for Entergy Mississippi customers as summer arrives.

Check out the news story and interview: <https://www.wapt.com/article/entergy-rates-dropping-in-july/44189672>



On Monday, we joined Atmos Energy and the Community Foundation for Mississippi for a check presentation at the Bean Path in Jackson. The Bean Path is a non-profit organization based in downtown Jackson specializing in workforce development and technology with a mission to bridge the digital divide for residents in Jackson and low-income communities, and to provide workforce development opportunities. Atmos Energy has contributed \$12,500 over the last two years to the Bean Path's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) Summer Program/Camp.



On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, the Central District took part in the 94th Annual Convention of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors at the Mississippi Coast Convention Center in Biloxi. The program included numerous education sessions, an exhibit hall and trade show, and a statewide candidates forum.

County supervisors provide local and regional leadership over critical policy areas, including policies necessary to ensure safe communities, construction and maintenance of roads and bridges, protect public health, promote economic development, and plan and manage land use for sustainable development.



Last week, our Consumer Complaint Specialists handled a total of **35** complaints in the Central District.

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| Electric Companies | 27 |
| Telecommunications | 4 |
| Natural Gas | 4 |

Last week, the Central District received a total of **105** complaints from consumers against potential telemarketers through our no call app, website and mail-ins.

We encourage consumers to file telemarketing complaints with the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.donotcall.gov/> in addition to filing complaints with the Mississippi Public Service Commission.